too costly or in excess of requirements, revision is called for and will be exercised.

127. Sanction of budget allotments for the Public Works Department in proportion to the extent and population of each taluk.

Mr. K. C. Mamman Mappillay, B. A., (Kottayam) said that the Kottayam Division had been very much neglected in the matter of public works. The claims of this division upon the attention of Government were as strong as those of others, if not stronger, viewed either from the standpoint of area or population, total assessment collected or the urgency of the need for public works. He suggested that a definite scheme might be formulated by Government and kept in view, in apportioning the annual allotment for the Public Works Department among the different divisions of the State. Urgent works might claim the first attention in all cases. A committee of expert and impartial officers might be appointed on the lines of the Irrigation Commission of British India to enquire and report what Marahmut works were required immediately for each division and in what order they should be taken up by the Public Works Department.

Mr. Chithira Nal Tampuran of Vadakumkur, Vaikam (Nominated) stated that if a fair proportion of the allotment for public works could be systematically expended in Vaikam, Shertallay and other much neglected taluks of the Kottayam Division for the next ten years, there would not be much room for popular complaint thereafter.

Mr. K. C. Eapen, B. A., (Kshemathalpara Samajam, Kadapra, Tiruvallah) observed that the money expended on public works in the plains was disproportionately small, when compared with the amount allotted for the High Ranges, and that the Quilon and Kottayam divisions were even more neglected in this respect than the other two divisions. The people of Central Travancore suffered much for want of good roads and an equitable distribution of public funds in this matter was what the people most earnestly prayed for.

Mr. Varkey Oothuppu (Ettumanur) and Mr. N. Kesavan Valiathan (Kartigapalli) also spoke on the subject.

Reply.—No general rule can be laid down. Government give the subject their most careful consideration and distribute the allotments in accordance with the importance and urgency of the works

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required throughout the State, local requirements being also kept in view as far as possible. It was only very recently that Government sanctioned the proposal of the Chief Engineer for a sum of Rs. 1,685 being expended on surveying some roads necessary in the Kottayam Division. Equal attention, as far as circumstances will permit, is being paid to all the divisions of the State, but individual representations from particular divisions as to special wants will also be duly attended to.

128. Restoration and up-keep of the canals and water-ways of the State.

Mr. S. Krishna Iyer, B. A., B. L., (T. I. C., Alleppey) said that nothing was now being heard of a Canal Committee which existed some years ago. Many of the canals in the Central and Northern Divisions were being steadily encroached upon by the owners of adjacent lands and becoming shallower and shallower for want of repair. The necessity for deepening and restoring them to their original condition was imminent, especially as companies were also making use of the water-ways for running steam launches. He suggested that the Tahsildars might be asked to submit reports on the present and the past condition of these canals and water-ways and the Public Works Department consulted as to the amount of funds necessary for their restoration and maintenance.

Reply.—As mentioned in my address, a special Canal Subdivision has been formed for the purpose of improving the canals and water-ways of the State, and with a view to maintain the channels, regulate the traffic and secure some return to the Government for the large outlay involved on this account, early legislation on the subject is contemplated. A scheme has been recently elaborated and submitted by the Chief Engineer for deepening and otherwise improving the condition of some of the canals. This being an important measure, I asked the Chief Engineer and the Head Sirkar Vakil to work at it and draft a Bill for legalising the institution of a fee for this purpose. Their report has just been drafted. The whole matter will be carefully looked into.

129. Passing of rules referred to in sections 7 and 30 of the Irrigation Regulation (III of 1072).

Mr. N. Padmanabha Pillai (Chengannur) brought up this subject and prayed for the early passing of the rules under the Irrigation Regulation.

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